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**SF 274** – Computer Science (LSB1277SV)

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Fiscal Note Version – New

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**Description**

**Senate File 274** requires the Department of Education (DE) to establish computer science standards for elementary, middle, and high school grades and requires the Board of Educational Examiners to establish an endorsement in computer science for teachers. The Bill creates a Computer Science Professional Development Incentive Fund, from which school districts and teachers may receive funds as reimbursement for various forms of professional development relating to computer science. The Bill states that it is the intent of the General Assembly to fund the new fund beginning in FY 2019. The Bill also creates a computer science work group to identify and recommend computer science-related guidelines and potential policies for schools and submit a report to the Governor, DE, and the General Assembly by November 1, 2017.

**Background**

Governor Terry Branstad mentioned the concept of this Bill during the annual Condition of the State address in January 2017 and recommended a \$500,000 appropriation for FY 2019. The Bill provides incentives, but not a mandate, for school districts to increase the number of computer science offerings at all grade levels.

**Assumptions**

- The computer science work group will meet between four and six times before November 2017 in order to complete its assigned tasks. The estimated cost of the work group is \$15,000 for FY 2018.
- It will require 1.0 FTE position in the Department of Education, at a cost of \$105,518, to support the work group in FY 2018 and to act as computer science consultant in FY 2019.
- The cost of creating the computer science endorsement will be absorbed within the Board of Educational Examiners' annual budget.
- School districts choosing to participate in this program will supply the cost of additional curriculum, staff, and technology required to complete the increase in course offerings at the local level.

**Fiscal Impact**

There are two primary levels of fiscal impact: Department of Education costs and potential appropriations for the Computer Science Professional Development Fund in FY 2019. Below is a brief summary of potential cost of SF 274.

<b>Estimated Fiscal Impact of SF 274</b>		
	<u>FY 2018</u>	<u>FY 2019</u>
Dept. of Education		
Computer Science WorkGroup		
Comp Sci Consultant/Fund Mgr	\$ 105,518	\$ 105,518
Meetings	7,950	
Writer	3,200	
Data Analysis	3,850	
Total	<u>\$ 120,518</u>	<u>\$ 105,518</u>

Senate File 274 does not appropriate funds to the new Computer Science Professional Development Fund, but it does create the framework for the Fund. The Governor's FY 2019 General Fund budget recommendation contained \$500,000 for the new fund.

The cost to school districts cannot be estimated, as it is unclear how many districts will choose to participate.

**Sources**

Department of Education  
LSA analysis and calculations

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/s/ Holly M. Lyons  
February 27, 2017

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The fiscal note for this Bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.

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